

ALBUQUERQUE PAC MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2014

PARTNERSHIPS AT SPA BRIEFING

- No cooperating association;
- District Contribution Plan is now finalized;
- Partnerships isn't the priority in the District due to staffing levels;
- Approvals process requires 7 layers of approval (Division Chief, SAM, RM, Chief NRM, CT, OC, IR) leading to the District trying to do what can be done through the Contributions program instead of a formalized agreement.
- Public safety partnerships are prevalent in the District.
- Miriam requested photos of the NM-ANG and Cochiti Pueblo for helicopter training for inclusion in our training documents.
- There is potential for collaboration between Galisteo and the Camino Real trail that runs by the project. They are trying to have pre-Columbian history interpretive boards installed neared the parking area for the trailheads.
- They need assistance at Jemez with ideas for projects. This project is actually located on tribal lands. We don't own the land in fee, but the Corps fully manages the project lands.

PAC BUSINESS

HANDSHAKE

- Miriam suggested adding a radio button to find out if the person filling out the application attended the webinar so we can see trends on what we need to address.
- Allen suggested using it as an incentive. Heather indicated she wasn't sure she wanted it as an incentive.
- Miriam suggested giving 100 pt incentive bonus to projects that have never received a Handshake in the past.

Summary Statement

- Summary statement is an item of concern. Block character length will be blocked to 1250 characters to prevent to continued dissertations. Allen changed the summary description to put a 3 or 4 sentence description of the project up front.
- Possibility of deducting points for not following instructions.
- Sara suggested adding a section on writing for Handshake into the exercise. Heather indicated we could include that.

Sustainability

- Packages had issues with the field perceiving sustainability as green thinking. Heather suggested we split the scoring to 5 points to the years and 5 points to the subjective.
- Include a requirement addressing who will have O&M requirements.

- Sara and Titus suggested changing the name to Longevity/Sustainability. Subjectivity is the green stuff (sustainability). Longevity is the objective (life span).

Partnership value

- Sara asked if an individual can be listed as a partner. Heather indicated yes, if they sign the agreement. Allen will include this information in the instructions.

Incentive Categories

- Heather indicated the new White House initiative to get every 4th grader into a park. The team decided we couldn't do this because of the timeframe the applications come out.
- Military isn't a good option either.
- Sara suggested using the percentage of Corps value v. partner value. Heather indicated if we did it as above the average.

ES

- Packages often forget to mention NEPA review. There are issues with projects that don't mention NEPA.
- Add it to the checklist for eligibility. Allen suggested putting it before webinar participation.

Miscellaneous

- Sara pointed out that Corps personnel using labor as our portion should be using the fully burdened rate.
- Address who is spending what in the Concluding statement.
- The team decided to impose deductions for applications that didn't follow instructions.
- Alana requested that we include instructions not to include the CA. Heather requested that we increase the number of attachments to 4 pages.
- Make sure we include our Corps labor if nothing else.
- Tie breakers will be split in half unless the project refuses to accept. However, Allen is concerned about two projects that tie but each has differing amounts requested. How do you split the funds between them? Heather suggested splitting it up based on the percentage of the total amounts requested.
- We had a bunch of half points in calculations. Heather wanted clarification on rounding up. Everyone agreed that rounding up was appropriate.
- Stacy questioned whether there is the possibility for a zero. The answer is yes if they totally didn't address the criteria.
- Allen is going to compile all comments into one file.

OMBIL

- \$51.3M in partnership value.
- Next year, OMBIL will not limit the number of partnerships that can be listed under the primary.
- A description column will be added to the report. It currently cannot be seen unless you log in as the user.
- Corps value column will not say Corps costs; Contract funds to contract costs; Services to Corps labor; and total Corps Value to total Corps Costs.
- To create a new partnership, the user will be asked whether it's Rec or ES.
- There is a problem with entering partnership values in ES that was created when the wizard was developed.
- Alana will talk to Dena about issues with ES partnership where the project has no Rec mission.
- Alana wants to change the PROSPECT session to the one we used on the webinar.
- Need to update the Co-Op association list in OMBIL. Heather will send the list to Dena.
- Alana will talk to Dena about getting a report on how many people selected "No Partnerships" on the wizard dashboard. It also doesn't show no activity as a selection. Allen suggested putting the box on the inside not the outside. This will make you at least go in and review the partners you do have in there.
- Alana will talk to Dena about getting CDM to put a trigger in the Total Partner Value that if the total is not at least 1, the wizard will not show 100% completion.

VOLUNTEERS

- In ES-BEST is going to ask what volunteers is contributing to their packages. If they have some at a cut line, projects with partnerships will have more weight than those that don't.

AWARDS

- Miriam will create a score sheet for the volunteer award. Score sheets will be due back by January 16. Marilyn Jones is the voting member from the Foundation. The monthly call will be the week of the 19th.
- All volunteers that are nominated by the Division will get coins. The winner gets a plaque. 1,000 hours can be eligible for a coin without a Division nomination. This is not automatic. The volunteer coordinator has to request it and provide a justification.
- Heather will talk to Ginny about modifying the volunteer tracker to include three columns: pass, coin, cumulative.

PROSPECT

MARCH – OUACHITA

- Sessions were assigned.
- Miriam needs to update locations photos in Jeopardy. Miriam will write up Rule of Engagement.
- Heather is going to look at tests and see if anything needs to be done.
- Tools into actions: We need better answer sheets for instructors. Some of the scenarios need to be deleted or updated.
- Heather needs to get with Stacy and Bill to work on field trip details.
- Alana is going to update Military and OMBIL slides.
- Remember to follow-up on Friday with any questions from the field trip.

ROCK ISLAND

- Heather, Titus, Stacy, & Sara – Stacy and Sara will do the same classes from Oachita
- Heather needs to get a proposed schedule to the instructors.

FY16

- Kansas City (Fall) & Bay Model (Spring); FY 17 Pittsburgh (Spring) & ?
- Chris is going to follow up with Pittsburgh to see if it can accommodate.
- Week of 2-6 Nov or 16-20 Nov in KC. Heather will email Scott Rice for consideration.
- Heather will e-mail Chris Gallagher to determine when March – June are best for Bay Model in Spring of FY16.

OTHER BUSINESS

FY15 MEETINGS

- Fall PAC meeting the week of October 19. Suggested area is Tulsa District.
- Tentative Spring meeting is the week of May 4 – 8 depending on the partners availability.

CORPS FOUNDATIONS

- The Foundation wants our ideas on membership incentives. The issue is what do you get for your money? They don't bring anything to the table, not like what you know the Nature Conservancy accomplishes.
- The team suggested a mass mailing to zip codes associated with our projects and send a donation form with an "incentive" for them to open it like address labels or the promise of a cute plush Bobber stuffed toy. Maybe the Foundation can talk to Pam who is reluctant to relinquish control of Bobber.

- Do a campaign with a stuffed Bobber like Flat Stanley. They could have contests, etc and give resulting calendars from submissions for a donation.

DAY 2 – DECEMBER 4

CHARTER

PAC CHAIR

- Chris indicated the MIPR is one of the most difficult issues the PAC Chair has to work with.
- Allen volunteered to be the chair. Alana moved Allen be the chair and Titus seconded. Allen indicated a one year extension would be acceptable.
- Handshake duties should shift to someone else; but Allen didn't feel that was necessary.

LRD REPRESENTATIVE

- Allison Walker was the only LRD nominee. Everyone feels she is a great addition. Alana moved Allison be the LRD rep and Titus seconded.
- Mary already gave her approval.

WORK PLAN

GATEWAY UPDATES

- Heather indicated she wanted to update some of the definitions, especially with the new WRRDA. She also indicated we needed to be better at using the correct terminology in general and especially when we are talking to the class.
- Heather suggested she do an initial scrub, and then we could break out the pages among the team and have them responsible for ensuring those pages are working and up-to-date throughout the year. Alana asked if things were really that out-of-date.
- Allen expressed a concern that if we break it up, the daily grind keeps you from looking at it on a more regular basis.
- The team agreed that it would just be on-going review as we use the pages.
- Allen indicated we needed to add an accomplishments bullet. Heather stated she would do it during the review.

WATER SAFETY

- Trying to get a water safety rep involved in our quarterly meetings and monthly PAC calls hasn't been working out as well as we hoped.
- Allen will include water safety as an agenda item and include her in the invitation to the monthly meeting.

- Alana suggested asking her to have one of the National team attend if she can't.

QUARTERLY TELECONFERENCES

- Miriam suggested doing it bi-annually since much of the information doesn't really change.
- Stacy asked for an example of what we've used in the past. Alana explained how she puts hers together.
- Heather suggested doing the meetings after the bi-annual meetings.

INVOLVEMENT WITH OC/RM/RE

- Alana suggested with encourage our counterparts in these areas to participate in the PROSPECT class.
- We want to target them prior to the Purple Book coming out (Jan-Mar).
- Everyone will get a list of the representatives from their respective offices and Heather will send an invitation out to those folks.

VOLUNTEERS

- Heather indicated we are licensed to change the content provided by NPS as we see fit. We can also post it on the Gateway as is.
- We will continue to do the regulator Volunteer Policy Webinar but Heather will develop additional FIT-V webinars.
- Allison is assigned the Volunteer Policy webinars.
- Heather will send FIT-V modules to everyone for review.

HANDSHAKE WEBINAR

- Dates are: May 8 at 1400 EDT; July 27 at 1100 EDT; Aug 25 at 1400 EDT.

GRANTS WEBINAR

- Date is: Oct 30 at 1530.

WRRDA

- Small group meeting was held in September.
- Section C "Administration" should have been on its own. Mary has coordinated with OC to determine if we need a Technical Revision. However, the last conversation said maybe it's not nested and maybe it does stand on its own. Heather and Mary will meeting with OC to get a ruling on this. We need for it to stand on its own which gives us more leeway and almost makes the first section irrelevant.

- Our goal is to get guidance that is signed by the ASA. This will make it harder for OC to go back on the implementation guidance once it's been signed by the OC.
- This language still doesn't contain fee retention so we don't want to call it CJM.
- Heather reviewed Chapters 9, 10 & 11 and the definitions in Chapter 1 and reworked that to make it more clear to meet the newer definitions and clearly define the new laws.
- Heather indicated we need to create a new Chapter for Cooperative agreements and a new chapter that covers WRRDA Section C and those 213 issues.
- Allen, Miriam, Lynn and Ryan need to provide comments to Heather before we move forward.
- After Team 1 reviews, the document will be forwarded to the remainder of the team for review.
- Alana asked Heather if she was going to update the "Cost Sharing" Chapter to Challenge Partnership. Alana asked if we could add language about where to find the traditional cost share information.

SPECIAL PROJECT

- Alana suggested using the extra \$50K on a special partnership project like Jaime had suggested in previous years.
- Heather asked how we would select someone. It would have to be competed because we have to justify why we are giving funds to someone. We wouldn't have to compete it if we were giving it to the Corps Foundation.
- Allen asked if we could pay for a CA member to attend our PROSPECT Class if it would help them. Is there a way to get them more involved in the process?
- Heather suggested maybe WRRDA would allow us to pay for interns for some of our cooperating associations and the Corps Foundation. Couldn't we do a CA for this specific purpose? This could be very beneficial to the Corps Foundation. It won't help us this year but if it is an acceptable use of this policy, we need to consider this.
- Under current authorities we could fund Partnership interns similar to the water safety interns. Grant writing experience or training could be a requirement.
- Sara and Allison will work on a proposal.

COCHITI MEETING

John Mueller – OPM Abiqui
 Austin Colvin – Acting Lead Park Ranger Abiqui
 Marcus Rosacker – OPM Cochiti
 Adrian Glass – Seasonal Park Ranger
 Merrie Cartwright – Albuquerque BLM

AIBIQUI

- John mentioned they have two residence houses. Both part of the historical property, at Abiqui. They are trying to get a State Patrol officer to live there full time in

exchange for free patrols. He indicated they are working on a lease and challenge partnership. It's hung up in the legal department of the highway patrol. They aren't currently able to find out what their concerns are.

- The second house is currently not being used. The project would like to turn it into an EE center and release center in partnership with a local agency. They currently bring up Eagles during the survey period and bring spotting scopes. They have the Citizen Science Program with the wildlife center (New Mexico Wildlife Center) where they partner during Earth Day to survey all different types of birds. They have shown interest in having an outreach center there. It's big enough to be a release facility and a lab facility.

- They are interested in having an SCA to help with that center and other interpretive programs and inspections. The house is ideal for the SCA program. The house could be dual purpose for the EE center and the SCA by sectioning off the building.

- The Wildlife Center is also interested in being a Cooperating Association. They are already non-profit. They already have some trustworthy folks involved that would be ideal to work with.

- They are also interested in having a donation box. Interested in finding out how they can build that relationship with a friends group.

- Heather indicated you would set parameters for the group in the Cooperative Agreement. As long as you are up front and open, honest discussion, you can stop those problems before they get out of control.

- Titus indicated that much of what they mentioned they wanted to do are already in the template.

- Chris indicated as long as you continue to have shared goals, the bumps can be overcome.

- Have annual meetings to set up expectations. How do you quantify the value you expect? Miriam indicated there is not a requirement to provide a value because we are permitted to provide our CA's a space to work out of. Heather and Titus indicated there is intrinsic value. If you know how many hours they are working, you can use volunteer hours to find the value and put that into OMBIL. This applies to donations or in-kind services as well.

- Alana reminded them to keep track of their hours that are worked on the agreement. It can be tracked through FEM and then reported in OMBIL at the end of the year.

- Heather reminded Austin you can accept donations now that there is a District Contributions Plan in place.

- Merrie asked about the templates and if they included references to the regulations that allow these types of agreements. Heather indicated a CA agreement is different than a Challenge Partnership. Heather indicated there is a Real Estate Lease to a non-profit and a CA is used to set up the relationship.

- Heather asked if they had been to the Partnership pages on the Gateway and they indicated they had but they weren't aware there were 254 pages of information out there. John indicated he used it to get his templates for their potential friends group.

- Heather indicated they should also coordinate with Audubon to be a way to expand their presence north of Santa Fe. Heather indicated they should approach

Audubon with their Wildlife Center partner and use the National MOU as the foot in the door.

- Allen indicated the Corps Foundation can already accept donations for the projects without have a CA agreement as can any non-profit—if you have a good working relationship with them and feel they won't keep the money for themselves.
- Merrie asked what mechanism you report work done by a Conservation Corps in OMBIL if you use a contract to get instead of a CA?
- Wetland Project with Trout Unlimited. The project coordinates releases with them when needed as long as they aren't significant. They've already provided a drawing for a proposed wetland project. The local group is trying to pull funds from the National organization and they, in turn, are trying to get funds from other national organizations with similar goals. Austin is worried that the Corps foot dragging is going to cause them to lose interest and walk away.
- Chris asked what type of agreement they were using. John indicated they didn't know what they were going to use.
- Titus indicated if you can get the Colonel involved, all the red tape you have could possibly go away. If you can show him the value, he can push a time frame and get everyone moving in the appropriate direction.
- Heather indicated the easiest way to do this would be to accept all of the funds as a contribution. If they want something that is more in writing, then do an MOU but you'll have to add the extra time for you 7-layers of review. The last option would be a Challenge Partnership Agreement. It just depends what you partner is comfortable with.
- Heather recommended they considering putting in for Handshake funds for parts of Phase 2 because the partners will already be in place.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

- Ben Thomas (Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Taos). They are expanding out of Northern New Mexico.
- More cost effective than a contract. Come with additional funding so there may not be any costs except labor to coordinate with the crew. If there are costs, it's just the difference between the cost of the project and what the Youth Corps can fund.
- The goal is youth development with the project they are working on being secondary to that.
- Locate your local Corps at TheCorps.org or 21CFC.org

COCHITI/GALISTEO/JEMEZ

- Each project works with a separate Karas Nations (Pueblo). One of the new rangers will have Karas language. 1/3 of visitation is Karas speaking.
- Jemez is dry due to cultural resources in the local vicinity which caused visitation to go down further. They are beyond the scope of partnerships.

COCHITI

- Long-term partner is the Cochiti Pueblo.
- Los Conches fire burned 156,000 acres which resulted in large areas of sedimentation and debris. In cooperation with the Cochiti DNR, the project issues free wood permits.
 - Native cut throat trout was washed out of the canyons about 2 ½ miles downstream of the dam.
 - Cochiti DNR has initiated a project to develop refugium. If the Corps can prepare the stream, the Cochiti has the appropriate cut throat to reintroduce.
 - Trout unlimited is a potential partner.
 - With the destruction of the Dickson Apple Orchard, the Cochiti hold the lease on the property and are looking to purchase the land. This area was historically populated by the Cochiti before de Vargas drove them from the land centuries ago.
 - There is a natural wetland upstream of the Santa Fe river dam structure. The Cochiti would like the Corps to reintroduce seasonal plantings above the dam structure where there was historic native crop development. It could also benefit the community by providing habitat for Sand Hill Cranes.
 - The relationship has gone from antagonism, to tentative trust after the commander apologized for the Corps destruction of sacred sites, to a much better relationship today.
 - Rancho de las Geronimas is New Mexico's answer to Colonial Williamsburg. There are opportunities to have partnerships with them as well.
 - This is the only take out point between the dam and the Highway to Los Alamos. This runs approximately 18 miles upstream. It's not the best white water but it gets quite a bit of use in this area. There are concerns about how to get our folks up there in an emergency. Sedimentation is a problem during low water. There are potential partnerships with Cochiti Pueblo, Bandelier NP, USFS and possibly BLM.
 - The project has 12,000 surface acres. We only manage the water except the leased recreation areas. Everything else is the Pueblo. Any future development or rehabilitation must be approved by the Pueblo. Some of the areas close in the winter for tribal hunting. There is no other hunting permitted on the project.
 - There is a possibility to invite local tribal craftsman in for demonstrations.
 - There is currently a local volunteer that presents campfire and interpretive programs.
 - **The program here has been in fits and starts and they would like something with more longevity.**
 - Heather indicated that the key to that is that it has to be something the community wants and needs. This is extremely important here. Make sure any partnership has good partner involvement so they are getting something out of it as well. We can provide the place for their special interest. The very first question should be, "What's in it for the partner." The kayakers are a special interest group that needs a takeout point. Work with them to get facilities for them installed. Approach Trout Unlimited about the project you have in mind.

GALISTEO

- We do own fee land but we have to cross 5 or 6 miles of tribal lands to get there. Now the roads are 50 years old. We have easements to maintain those roads to our

benefit but we can't do it just because the Pueblo wants us to. It's a very sensitive issue.

- Heather and Titus brought up FLAP. Heather asked if the Pueblo has any interest in the roads being repaired. The project and the Pueblo is also eligible for ERFO funds.
- Galisteo is a dry lake. It is just for drainage. It reduces flood flow to 7,000 CFS. It has 6 picnic tables. They are currently working on a Master Plan and revisiting what the potential is. It does have recreation values but maybe not from the traditional standpoint. The NPS is working with the project to propose recreation potential. The NPS representatives said it has enormous potential for scenic viewing and historical interpretation. Its far enough away to be remote but close enough to have day use potential. The project is part of the historic Camino Real Trail are on the project which is of great interest of the National Park Service.
- Gave 310 acres of the best portions of the trail back to the Santo Domingo Pueblo.
- The NPS would like to find a source of funding for an intensive archeology survey to use metal detectors to find artifacts.
- Heather indicated the project should look at using technology instead of interpretive panels by using QR codes and dial an interpreter.
- Alana discussed creative mitigation of cultural sites by hiring interpreters and other methods which are funded through the ES program.
- Titus asked if any of the tribes they work with operate casinos. The Santa Ana Pueblo does. They do provide funding to the other Pueblos but only indirectly.
- Merrie indicated there needs to be more information flowing from HQ down to the Districts so that all the elements understand why partnerships are important and how they can work better with us to make partnering with us easier which is what we discussed earlier today in the Work Plan session.

DEC 4, SANTA ROSA

MERRIE CARTWRIGHT – SPA

MICHAEL VOLLMER – CONCHAS

GARY CORDOVA – SANTA ROSA

CONCHES

- Mike indicated they have a very small community. The Dean of the School of Archeology at the community college approached the project about having access to better research opportunities for her students prior to their graduation. One of his suggestions was to have the students do the water quality studies. Eventually, he would like to access their STEM funding. She's already bought equipment. He would like to eventually have them do their water quality studies to cut down costs instead of having to send them to Colorado.

- This was sent up as an MOA. This was the Districts test case for the new 7 layers of approval. To avoid that was to call it a cooperative agreement. For MOA's there is an argument about formatting. Heather indicated that this should be an MOU because we aren't giving money to the school. Mike indicated that the students are signed up as volunteers prior to going out for the first time.

- Heather discussed the need for correct terminology. There is no real template for MOU except for the legal statements that don't obligate government funds and don't prohibit you from working with another organization. We have the authority to accept goods, services, and supplies through the contributions program. This is the most simple way to start working with a partner while you try to finalize a more formal agreement. Miriam provided examples of using a simple letterhead to provide the partner in lieu of doing a formal agreement.

- Gary asked about the acceptance of funds at Abiqui. We indicated that we did.

- Heather talked about the value of formalizing partnership for more long-term projects through an MOU. This helps in longevity when it comes to ranger turn-over.

- Alana discussed the PACs initiative to get in touch with the District OC/RM/RE so we can encourage them to attend our prospect class so they can learn about our partnerships and the regulations involved.

- Chris indicated how the new matrix can also help alleviate some of those issues and we should use it more to instruct new personnel in support organizations not just the projects.

- **Heather asked Merrie to send her the Army MOU/MOA template.** Merrie indicated links are attached on the PowerPoint presentation she gave on Tuesday.

- Mesa Lands had a \$6B grant to get undergrad students research opportunities. The Community College is starting to do research to get them the experience they need before they go to a 4-year school. It started with water quality and now they are setting up wildlife cameras. The project finds locations for the cameras. Eventually it will evolve into a way to take DNA samples from the coyote population.

- Mike wants to install lifejacket loaner stations. The recreation areas are unique. The Corps wants to supply the stations, the state will provide the lifejackets, then the campground would install the signs. The fear is placing the station in a rec area that is privately operated in an area that has historically had bad feelings.

- Heather indicated that they should work with a group they both have a good relationship and let that group be the intermediary so the private area is benefiting from the program but the supplies are coming from the intermediary.

- Gary indicated they currently use the States Friends group to funnel donations to piggy back on projects that benefit the Corps in the state areas and they funnel donations from the public for the project so they can assist with projects on Corps lands but it leaves the District out of it.

- Allen indicated they have opportunities for the Handshake program here especially for the mountain bike trail with this friends group. Heather also indicated Handshake would be an opportunity to further some of the university initiatives.

Heather discussed the restriction of non-federal and COE operated properties.

- Alana suggested bring all your partners together to get buy-in from the potential partners first. Understand the QMS process to them and ask them to be patient.

- Heather indicated it is very unlikely that all partners can contribute to the same level. Allen indicated we have not received a single Handshake where each partner had the exact same level of contribution.